

till she had it from me ; so reserved was the King to her, even in a matter that concerned her so nearly.¹

The Bishop wrote this in 1705. In his original account, written in 1691, which is simpler and shorter, Burnet mentioned neither Shrewsbury nor Caermarthen, and omitted the tears. He touched up the bald original story just as Macaulay expands the narrative of the bishop. Though there is the statement that William meant 'to go over to Holland, and leave the government in the Queen's hands', that is not quite the same thing as a 'design of abdicating the government'.

The only other authority referred to by Macaulay is Lord Lonsdale, then Sir John Lowther.² Lowther tells us in rather general terms that, shortly after the Revolution, there was a great revival of factions and party spirit. Men who had invited the King to undertake the government began to oppose it. In Parliament 'the buried names of Whig and Tory were revived'. At court there were factions : in council no agreement. ' There was no council but only for form, and things were left to manage themselves/

¹ The King, as I was well assured, either really weary or disdaining the nation for these reasons, or willing either to try their temper or reconcile their differences, called

some of the principal of them together and
proposed going
back into Holland, and either leaving them to
provide for
their own security or the Queen here, with whom
they would
perhaps be better pleased as nearer related to
the Crown/
What followed the proposal or when it was made
Lowther
does not say. But he intimates that it took place
shortly be-

¹ Own Time, ii. 39-40.

-• His narrative is printed in the English Historical
Review, **xxx.** 90-7.